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THE BAR of ISIS



The Law of the Mother

by FRANCES SWINEY

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The Bar of Isis
or
The Law of the Mother



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by

Simon Stern

The Bar of Isis

or

The Law of the Mother

By

Frances Swiney

Author of

"The Awakening of Women," "The Cosmic Procession,"

"The Esoteric Teaching of the Gnostics,"

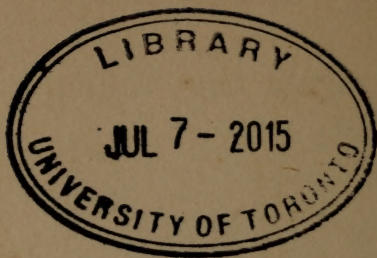
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THE Bar of Isis, or the Sistrum of Isis, is the Hieroglyph of the Divine Virgin Mother—the Maker of existences (invisible), the Creator of being or forms (visible).

It is the emblem of the creative Power, self-existent, self-contained, self-procreative and inviolable. Moreover, the symbol designates the Law, the Times, and the Seasons of the Mother. For it represents the gravid womb (the sign of fertility), the abode of life, kept inviolate and sacred from all intrusion during the nine months of gestation, and during the period of lactation, that is to say, during the individual mother's supreme task as creatrix, nourisher, and sustainer.

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The mother is therefore shown as again the *virgin intacta*, the *alma mater*, unspotted by the world, as in the days of her virginity, and free to develop in peace and sanctity the child-in-the-making, the child of the future, the hope of the race.

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The Bar of Isis

or

The Law of the Mother

Part I

The Natural Law

“The earth mourneth and fadeth away. . . . The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate.”—Isaiah xxiv. 4–6.

THE subject of race deterioration has become hackneyed. For long it has been one of the chief topics of interest in papers, reviews, and magazines; the object of committees, conferences, debates and scientific discussion, diagnosis and analysis, *ad libitum*.

Yet, with all, the true cause of the curse of being ill-born has never been touched, if one

may judge from the various opinions expressed. On the contrary, race degeneracy has been traced to every source but the right one. In turn, insanity, drunkenness, ignorance, poverty, destitution, malnutrition, overcrowding, have borne the brunt of national opprobrium.

Above all, the shortcomings of modern maternity have been anathematised by Church and State, specialist and street-boy, as the main and obvious signs of a decadent womanhood. To the average masculine mind it is always a consolation in adversity to find a scapegoat in the woman, and drive her, naked and ashamed, into the wilderness of inconsequent denunciation.

However, a little consideration reveals the fact that we are here dealing with the effect and not with the cause of the evil ; with side-issues, terrible indeed in their varied aspects, but not touching the source of corruption, which appears to be slowly poisoning the race, not only in the United Kingdom, but more or less humanity in general.

If we study the laws of natural phenomena, it becomes apparent that any infringement of them on the part of mankind brings the

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severest and most condign punishment. In no case is retribution for offence more marked than in the reproduction of species. Biology teaches that "Life is a series of fermentations,"¹ through the dynamic energy of certain chemico-physical combinations. All vital actions are, in brief, the result of ferments set up in the system, causing cell-division, upon which division growth depends. The condition of growth is, therefore, dependent upon the appearance or production or importation of specific ferments at each crucial stage of development.

But destructive ferments can destroy or undo or modify the work accomplished by the constructive, and upset the process of assimilation, of nutrition, of cellular equilibrium on formative lines. Ferments, therefore, are agents of life or death, of health or disease, of growth or decay. Cessation of growth—of development—means simply that the destructive ferment has got the upper hand; it is breaking up, poisoning the constructive *enzymes*. For the characteristic feature of ferments is their extreme potency in relation to their mass. The

¹ See *The Dynamics of Living Matter*, Prof. Jacques Loeb, Lecture II.

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active principle of malt, for instance, will "break up a million times its own weight in sugar."

The process of reproduction of species, whether unisexual or amphigonic (*i.e.* of two sexual organisms), is thus a matter of fermentation and a consequent series of ferments.

The unicellular maternal organism divides or splits up into two or more daughter-cells, and so on *ad infinitum*, having inherent the active ferments for division and growth.

In sexual reproduction the ovum in the maternal organism first ejects minute portions of ferment in the two polar bodies, and in lieu thereof absorbs the necessary stimulus by the importation of the male sperm, an infinitesimal speck of protoplasm containing the requisite chemical constituents to hasten cell-division. For Nature, though bountiful and prolific, is never wasteful of her elements. She is especially chary in the use of her most potent agents. Moreover, she never duplicates her initial essentials.

Of all ferments, that employed in fertilisation is probably the most powerful and the most complex.¹ Undoubtedly it is the one

¹ According to Meisher, "The semen (human) is com-

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of which the Great Mother is most careful in expenditure. Though the pollen of plants is produced in vast quantities, only one minute cellule enters the ovule. Though millions of sperms are formed in the male organism, only one penetrates the ovum. With both plant and animal the bar of Isis falls and keeps inviolate the growing seed and embryo. Nature never fertilises twice. She is dealing with a dangerous tool—two-edged—with properties of life and death.

For the action of some ferments is, moreover, under certain conditions, reversible. The enzyme, without losing its distinctive character, is not only able to form a molecule but to pull it apart; the enzyme itself undergoing active chemical changes during the process. The whole battle of life, from the unicellular organism upwards, is fought between the potentialities of the constructive and destructive ferments, *i.e.* between the anabolic

posed of 82 to 90 parts water; the remainder is serum, albumen, alkali albuminate, hemialbumose, nuclein, lecithin, guanin, hypoxanthin, protomin, fat, cholestrin, inorganic salts and phosphoric acid, muriatic acid in combination with inorganic bases."—*Modern Researches*, Bayer (U.S.), p. 192.

(constructive) and katabolic (destructive) chemico-physical properties of protoplasm.

Thus the object of sex-differentiation is not by any means to further or to assist reproduction; for that function is carried on successfully by myriads of unisexual organisms.¹

Its aim is variation of type, structure, and characteristics; in fact, to induce variety, by a wider crossing of strains through the dynamics of various chemico-physical combinations, in what may well be termed "a moving equilibrium" to a given standard of perfectibility in each species.

For Nature never goes off the lines of her own laws of development. All natural advance is by the "weight and balance and measure" of different elements. She is a strict accountant of the expenditure of energy,

¹ "The experiments on artificial parthenogenesis indicate clearly enough that the development of the egg can be caused without even the presence of a sperm nucleus."—*The Dynamics of Living Matter*, Prof. Jacques Loeb, p. 179.

Again, to show that the direct and essential effect of the spermatozoon is the starting of a definite chemical process, Professor Delage found that a fragment of egg protoplasm which has no nucleus can develop when fertilised, for the creative property is potential in each particle.

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and resents an infringement of the law of adjustment. Fertilisation, therefore, is beset by inexorable conditions of time, fitness, quantity, and quality, according to the exigencies of each species. For every flower the seed-time is fixed. For every animal the period for reproduction is limited and controlled by a natural law which admits of no deflection. And the act of fertilisation has but one object, that of aid to the reproduction of kind by the procreatrix, the mother.

Taken broadly, we find that in the sub-human species the interval of latent sexuality is extended with the increasing complexity of the organism. Among the higher mammals the nourishment of the offspring and the recuperation of the mother are ensured by the lengthened periods between the births, roughly calculated to be three to five times that of the months of gestation, as is seen in the whale, elephant, gorilla, etc. Thus reproduction and individual development vary in inverse ratio. As the organism becomes more complex and individuated, there is ever a greater disinclination to exercise the sex-functions, both in the male and female organisms; for self-develop-

ment and self-preservation take the place of self-reproduction. Fertilisation is for the male an episode, not a habit.

Though among all animals there is sex-attraction, there is no sensual vice—and the female always regulates the sex-function by will and choice. She rejects all males that do not come up to her standard, and whose variability will not be of racial value to the offspring. “The virtue of the female animal,” writes Professor Lester F. Ward, “is absolute; for virtue does not consist, as many suppose, in refusal but in selection. It is refusal of the unfit, and of all at improper times and places. This definition of virtue applies to human beings, even the most civilised, as well as to animals.”¹

Also, the continence of all female animals during the periods of gestation and lactation is equally absolute. The gravid womb is inviolate. No mother, *below* the human, submits to any male exactions during the critical times of embryonic growth of her offspring and of its dependence on maternal nutrition. No male, *below* the human, would dare to infringe on

¹ *Pure Sociology*, p. 345.

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this law of prohibition and of continent maternity. What is more, Nature destined man for a higher purpose than that of a mere fertiliser.

We must, therefore, in considering the present abnormal racial degeneracy, dig deep down into the rotten foundations of human pathology and trace effects to the true cause. Persons, totally ignorant of physiology, write diatribes on the declining birth-rate; and equally hysterical effusions on the fearful mortality of infants fill magazines, reviews, and papers, the onus in each case being thrown on the incapable and ignorant mothers of the race, who are, first, blamed for not producing more infants, and, secondly, upbraided with the loss of those produced.

Yet, in our degenerate, unnatural civilisation, we may well ask, When and where has the human mother had shown to her the consideration imperative in the brute-male? Man, as a rule, has not deemed his offspring worthy of the safeguards of the ape.

Generalising broadly, physiology teaches us that woman, as the most complex and highly functioned of organisms, should, for the natural

production of strong, healthy offspring, be limited to three or four children at most, and the interval between the births should be at least four to five years ; some physiologists say six should be allowed for full recuperation after the periods of pregnancy and lactation.

Naturally, the rate of reproduction is the lowest in the human species. Allowing for a normal death-rate, the world could never be over-peopled through over-production, if the Law of Nature were followed ; for no woman naturally would bear more than four children, six being the maximum in a period of twenty years, and few women would, by choice, endure so long a strain.

Among many primitive peoples the restrictions placed by the natural law on reproduction are more or less strictly observed, and consequently we do not find among them the specific diseases that disgrace and destroy our depraved, civilised (?) humanity, and fill our asylums and hospitals with thousands of victims to sexual excesses. Moreover, the laws of the archaic ages enforced the rights of maternity with exceptional severity. "Thou shalt respect the times and the condition of the woman."

Part II

The Child in the Making

"My son," admonishes Solomon, "hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother"; thus plainly showing that the man had to be taught the strict discipline of the mother's rule in the primitive days of the matriarchate. But now it may well be said, "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work : for they have made void Thy law."—Psalm cxix. 126.

WE will take first the proved and terrible results of incontinence during pregnancy, as they affect the offspring.

I have before observed that organic life and growth depend upon a series of ferments. Fertilisation is fermentation. The single sperm contains all that is necessary in stimulating properties for the embryonic development of the foetus. Limited, its power is for good ; in excess, it is a virulent poison.

It has been found that among primitive people the new-born infant is seldom if ever

covered with the sebaceous deposit known as *vernix caseosa*, the chief cause of eczema, of a number of peculiar forms of skin diseases, of diseased sweat-glands, of early baldness, of scurf on the head, of inflammatory diseases of the eyes—notably of the worst and most incurable form, *ophthalmia neonatorum*—of *crusta lactea* (milk crust, tetter), of blennorrhœa, and kindred incurable diseases that baffle all medical science.¹

In former times it was erroneously asserted that *vernix caseosa* was a natural lubricant to

¹ Want or absence of oxygen prevents cell-division, and tends to the liquefaction of the existing cell-walls; but “Budgett found that a number of poisons, such as potassium cyanide, morphine, quinine, antipyrin, nicotine, and atropine, produce structural changes of the same character as those described for lack of oxygen.”—*Dynamics of Living Matter*, Prof. Jacques Loeb, p. 21.

“Looking solely to the effects of drugs when taken by the pregnant woman, I conclude that congenital epilepsy, imbecility, chorea, and other pronounced nervous disorders are, in most cases, attributable to the administration of chemicals or drugs, ingested by the mother, through whom they enter the foetal system. In that manner they arrest or retard its development, and produce or modify the chemical changes in the blood and in the cellular structure.”—*Modern Researches*, Bayer (U.S.), p. 150.

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aid parturition, but, unfortunately for this hypothesis, no animal below the human shows a trace of this supposititious emollient, while even in civilised life all children are not covered with the unctuous material. Instead of being beneficial, it is an excrescence and parasitic in its nature. In the words of the author of *Modern Researches*:—¹

“Those parents who have well-defined and positive convictions on the subject of sex-relations that there should not be any cohabitation after pregnancy is assured, who believe at that period the pregnant woman should not only have complete rest from excitement of the sex organs during that time, but also that such excitation produces deleterious effects on the character of the future offspring which she is nourishing—in such cases there is no *vernix caseosa* found on the child at birth. . . . I believe it to be an indication of a disturbance in the maternal organism, that it is a signal-light which Nature holds out so that he who runs may read, to warn mankind that there has been something at work which is detrimental to the race. . . .

¹ Pp. 175-7.

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I repeat, that cheesy mess is not found on infants born to parents who believe that motherhood is a sacred and, as it were, a holy state."

Now, when one considers that the delicate epithelial cells are formed in the fifth month of foetal life, it is obvious that no foreign substance or ferment should be injected into the maternal organism, and allowed to make its way to the skin, thus injuring its growth and development. *Vernix caseosa* is in no sense a product of the maternal organism: it is an importation from the male, and is formed of "inanimate decomposed zoosperms," actively poisonous to both mother and child. The eminent obstetrician, Professor Parvin of the Jefferson Medical College, laid great stress on the inviolability of the prospective mother, as have many of the foremost American doctors who have made a study of the pernicious effects of *vernix caseosa*. For "any effete matter which remains in the system, after it has performed its function, is injurious," and even a healthy fertiliser is dangerous when unnecessary. But what of the unhealthy?

For instance, the germ-plasm of a confirmed

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drunkard is saturated with alcohol, the most injurious and deadly of protoplasmic poisons. The initial fertilising sperm, therefore, brings disease to the ovum; and if sexual relations continue during gestation, the embryo becomes covered with toxic matter of the most deleterious composition, prejudicial to the growing tissues of the foetus, especially those of the heart and brain. Nicotine poison also retards the growth of healthy tissue. Tobacco blindness in adults is a recognised disease. The offspring of a confirmed smoker is handicapped at birth.

“The direct paternal transmission of syphilis without preliminary infection of the mother may be classed among the established facts of medical science,” is the statement in the *Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases*.¹ “The spermatozoa of a syphilitic father, carried into the uterus, then drawn into the liquor amnii and deposited or settling on the forming epidermis of the unborn child, does more or less injury to the skin. . . . Were the skin perfectly constructed, as it might have been had there been no vernix on it

¹ Vol. v., 1887, p. 126.

during its uterine existence, it would have been immune to the unhealthy or infectious germs"¹ of many forms of epidermic disorders. Again, in cases of blindness and eye diseases, "the infected fluid of a syphilitic father has been doing its malignant work while those tender and delicate cells which were to form the eye and its enclosure were under construction, sowing the germs of disease which, if it does not appear at once, may produce weak and disordered eyes early in the lifetime of the helpless victim. A father, who is but slightly tainted with some blood disorder which may not be looked upon as serious, may have added to his own tainted discharges the infection of alcohol, tobacco, opium, gluttony, etc. Nearly all medical writers say, The germs may be infected by excesses of any kind—that they weaken the system. So, just in that proportion would the spermatozoa be likely to affect the normal development of the eyes of the offspring. If the seminal fluid be heavily laden with the germs of disease, the resulting disorder would be proportionately of a more malignant type."²

¹ *Modern Researches*, Bayer (U.S.), p. 196.

² *Ibid.*, p. 207. All seminal fluid, being of the nature

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Dr Ernest Fuchs, the Vienna eye specialist, estimates that there are 30,000 blind people in Europe whose misfortune is due to prenatal effects. "In the city of New York there is one blind person to every 2500 inhabitants." In every paper throughout the civilised world may be seen specious advertisements of cures for skin diseases, showing how prevalent are the disorders and how numerous are the victims of parental disobedience to Nature's law.

Nature in vain warns and protests against any infringement of her decrees. Inexorably she demands the penalty to the third and fourth generation. The mortality of infants

of excreta, decomposes in the system of the woman. To show its virulence, Dr J. H. Tressel writes: "I took decomposed human generative fluid and injected it into the vascular system of guinea-pigs and rabbits. The most of them died within twenty-four hours. . . . I also took the fluid of putrid meat and tried it in the same manner, but found that it was not so deadly as the semen; it proved to be a much less active poison. Some of the animals did not die from the effects of the putrid meat infection, and those which did lived longer than any inoculated with the spermatozoic poison."—See *Modern Researches*, p. 269.

is thus more than accounted for. They are often conceived in iniquity, of drunken, lustful parents ; and, developed in the rankest poison, they become stunted, malformed, diseased, and prematurely old before they see the light.¹ Dr C. E. Page writes that “one-third of the

¹ “Regarding the ability of spermatozoa to penetrate the membrane inclosing the *liquor amnii*, it is acknowledged that they penetrate the membrane which surrounds the ovum. If they have that power, it is logical to assume they can penetrate the *amnii* as well. . . . If one were to ask, ‘What force is there in a foetal structure which enables it to eliminate the deleterious male excretions?’ I would answer that it is the same force (excretory function) that eliminates other effete matter which is disposed of, or the organism of both mother and child would become involved. . . . I therefore assume that there is some power in the foetal organism to attract *vernix caseosa*, or, more properly, spermatozoa, to it, because it is found there ; and it is not there if there are no male germs deposited during that period. . . . I conclude that the attraction to the foetus is utilised to enable the maternal organism to rid itself of that which is unnecessary and which has become a septic product.”—*Modern Researches*, Bayer (U.S.), pp. 211, 212.

Biology refutes the old fallacy that “the seed” is with the male. The sperm is simply the stimulating fertiliser to the “seed” of the female. “For fertilisation in its essence has nothing to do with reproduction,” writes Prof. Winterton C. Curtis in *Science*.

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children in the United States die before they are one year old"; while in France and England the massacre of the innocents is continuous, increasing, and abnormal, though the general death-rate is decreasing, but this is owing to greater care and attention to the sick and defective.

In 1905, 120,000 babies died in England and Wales alone. In Manchester, Birmingham, and Liverpool the infant death-rate is 19·2, or 20 per cent. of the births. Burnley and Preston have an infant death-rate of 208 per thousand; London numbers 129 per thousand, but in certain parts, Finsbury, for instance, the rate is 148·6. Sir William Broadbent avers that not only the big cities but small country towns have their high infant mortality, sometimes 500 babies dying out of every thousand born. And for every child that dies six are incapacitated for life, mostly through prenatal injuries and malformations.

For if we study the reports of the various committees, societies, and organisations interested in physical culture, race degeneracy, and pathological statistics, we find the same retributive scale of victims. Of the children

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of the National Schools 68 per cent. have unhealthy skins, all children over ten have decayed teeth, 10 per cent. have sore or defective eyes, 29 per cent. have defective hearing, 49 per cent. have pathological conditions of the nose and throat with poor lung development, and, above all, the number of the feeble-minded is increasing. Among these the atavistic traits are very pronounced: as the absence of the pleat ridge from the outside ear, and the presence of horizontal furrows on the brows, formed by the working of the frontal muscles after the habit of our simian ancestors. These defects are five times more numerous among boys than among girls, and all point to arrested prenatal development. The percentage of cases of heart disease among children is abnormally high, and 24 per cent. are more or less anæmic; the result of nicotine and alcoholic poisons.

The residue who grow up to man's estate present equally defective organisms.

In 1904, out of 70,000 youths who presented themselves for enlistment in the army, 24,782 were rejected as unfit. The proportion works out at 352.29 per 1000. The defects are

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mainly due to poor physical development, deficiencies in weight and chest measurement, weak constitutions, unsound organs, flat feet, malformations, and general debility. In 1903, the British army spent most of its time in bed in the various military hospitals. It may be urged that these recruits were of the poorer classes ; but the standard of efficiency is nearly as low in the upper. The report of the War Office on the Sandhurst Cadets is not reassuring, in that the medical officer a year back informed the Board that "the last batch of Cadets was physically the weakest for many years past."

Of our soldiers, 70 per cent. in times of peace are on the sick-list in the course of the year. According to Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.B., out of every five men enlisted, by the end of two years' service only two remain in the army.¹

On all sides and in every civilised country we find an alarming increase of epilepsy, insanity, idiocy, and congenital diseases. We are brought face to face with a steady deteriora-

¹ See "National Health," *Contemporary Review*, January 1903.

tion of the masses, and the survival of the fittest is in truth that bad is the best. And again we ask, What solution is there to this problem?

Undoubtedly, the answer is plain. Return to the natural law governing reproduction. For, as yet, I have only dealt with the question as regards the offspring. We have now to consider the matter from the point of view and the welfare of the mother. The consequences of disobedience there are but too apparent.

Part III

The Creative Periods

WE deplore the pangs of childbirth, and consider them inevitable in the climax of the maternal function. As a rule, we mildly acquiesce in the man-inspired dictum, that sorrow and motherhood are synonymous; thus casting upon the Divine Nature the most terrible of reproaches and the most iniquitous of libels. The Natural Law has again been flagrantly set aside by man to his own undoing.

“Childbirth without pain or danger is entirely natural. Pain and danger come from artificial and diseasing habits and conditions,”¹ writes Dr T. L. Nichols. In *Esoteric Anthropology*,² the same authority declares, “Women are everywhere outraged and abused.

¹ *Human Physiology*, p. 265.

² *Ibid.*, p. 198.

When the full chapter of woman's wrongs and suffering is written, the world will be horrified at the hideous spectacle." For "the so-called Diseases of Women" are due "directly or collaterally to one form or another of *masculine* excess or abuse."

I have before alluded to the respect shown to the female of their kind by the most powerful and savage of beasts. There are consequently no specific and exclusive female diseases; among the lower animals parturition is painless, and devoid of danger to either mother or offspring. It is only among domesticated animals that man has been able to introduce unnatural suffering and increased chances of death.

"It seems to be a legitimate view that every disease to which animals (and probably plants also) are liable, excepting as a transient and very exceptional occurrence, is due to man's interference," is the indictment of Ray Lankester.¹

Of civilised women thousands die in child-bed, 5000 annually in England alone. We do not find this death-roll among the primitive

¹ *The Kingdom of Man*, p. 33.

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peoples who observe the natural law of continence during the gestative period. For instance, among many African tribes, as pointed out by Winwood Reade and other travellers, no sexual union is permitted during pregnancy and lactation. The same rule holds good among the nobler of the American Indians, and the Fiji and various South Pacific Islanders.¹ The venereal diseases rampant among Europeans were unknown until introduced by civilised Christians. The annual baby is also an abnormality so deservedly censured that few parents would dare to face the odium of producing it. There is no greater shame attached to a man among many primitive tribes than that of infringing on the seclusion of the wife during the period of prohibition, lasting from the time of conception, to the weaning of the child, often extending four years ; consequently

¹ "The human female is in no degree inferior to the male ; the cause of inferiority is attributable to a violation of natural law."—*Modern Researches*, Bayer (U.S.), p. 225.

"With the advent of the androcratic stage, while woman lost her power of selection, so that man could develop no further, the abuses to which he subjected her soon began to tell upon her and produce degeneracy."—*Pure Sociology*, Lester F. Ward, p. 370.

parturition is easy and painless, and the women strong, healthy, and long-lived, though the conditions of life may appear hard in other respects.¹

To what a state has civilised man reduced a natural, simple function when we consider that 40 per cent. of childbirths are, in truth, surgical operations ; that 80 per cent. of tortured women are placed under anæsthetics ; and that childbed is regarded by many as the dreaded prelude to the deathbed and the portal of the grave !

The cause of this phenomenal suffering is obvious to those who honestly seek it. Bayer traces it conclusively to the pathological complications induced by ill-timed sexual intercourse. He attributes to this source alone the unnatural inflamed condition of the tissues of the uterine cavity, the adhesion of the placenta and consequent flooding, long and agonising labour,² and retarded recovery.

¹ "It is not the ordinary wear and tear of daily life which breaks down woman's health. It is the subtle, insidious drain on her generative organs."—*Modern Researches*, p. 241.

² "Sex-relation during pregnancy is a large factor in cases of difficult labour" (Dr A. C. Krum Eric). The same opinion is now held by the most enlightened members of the medical profession ; but the average practitioner,

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It is truly said that "in medical history there has been much groping in the dark," and naturally woman above all has suffered from the ignorance of male practitioners, who, at the best, have only an objective knowledge of the mysteries of the female organism. Puerperal fever, one of the most terrible scourges of childbed, has been the subject of much guesswork as to its cause and inexplicable appearance. Yet from this disease alone, it is computed that within the last thirty years 48,374 women in England and Wales have died after childbirth.¹ And, again, we find

male or female, is fearful of encroaching on "the rights of the husband," enforced by Church and State, to condone sexual indulgence. The day, however, is dawning when no reputable medico will countenance any infringement of Nature's law; and the law of reproduction will be as necessarily taught as the first rules of arithmetic. The law of Nature is beautiful, just, and pure. The shame is with the infringement.

¹ From 1871 to 1893, 50,211 women died from diseases of childbirth: victims to man, not to Nature. In many cases the husband has exercised "his rights" on the wife after the pains of labour have begun—often, among the poorer classes, sex-relations continue up to the last day of gestation. And the medical profession is silent, has been silent, during these countless years! The Churches, more-

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that Nature's law has been outraged, and the mother suffers in consequence the penalty of death due to an abnormal inflammatory condition of the system.

Bayer puts the indictment very plainly :—

“ I maintain that in the case of puerperal fever there has been excessive excitation of the parturient tract and the uterus by congress. It has produced a weakened state of the membranes. When the generative fluid is in a healthy condition the result will be difficult, painful labour, but no feverish complications. If, in addition, the male germs are diseased, fever and convulsions will likely occur. . . . I maintain that the causes of parturient disorders are, first and foremost, incontinence during the latter part of pregnancy. It is useless to ignore the law of continence which prevails throughout the animal world, excepting man in civilisation. As long as the State over, have gloried in and flourished on the subjection and degradation of woman. The Roman Catholic Church, for instance, makes it obligatory on the wife to “submit” herself to her husband at all times, whatever may be her own state of health or disinclination. Hence the depth of woman's degradation in all the southern countries of Europe, where the priest has sway.

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allows ignorance of the law of Nature and sensuality to mate, there will be, must be, as a consequence, disease and degeneracy. . . . I have also found that married primiparas (women in first confinement) who have obeyed the law of continence during the larger part of the gestative period, rarely suffer from lying-in complications. . . . I am driven to the conclusion that puerperal fevers, eclampsia, etc. arise from infection of the uterine organs, and are largely caused by the disordered condition of the father's system; that comparatively few young men enter the married state in a perfectly healthy condition; consequently their wives are broken down in health. . . . If the organs and connective tissues had been kept inflamed by excessive congress and diseased spermatozoa . . . puerperal fever would be likely. . . . The danger of infection from syphilitic or gonorrhœal zoosperms must be an ever present one. Such infection may be the direct producing factor in the cause of most, if not all, of these puerperal complications. . . . Puerperal fever attacks women in the best and in the worst surroundings. No class, except one, is immune: and that is the

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class which observes natural law relating to pregnancy. . . . Nor do I believe that any course of fruit diet, dress, exercise, or any system of hygiene, will indemnify Nature for the outrage committed against its decrees.”¹

Well may Dr Rentoul declare that “the health of woman is our greatest national asset, that the physically and mentally healthy woman represents the best thing in life—motherhood.” Well, too, may he condemn man’s inhumanity to woman. No female animal has been so ruthlessly, so brutally, so generally mercilessly exploited by the male, as woman. She has in truth borne the travail of the world’s motherhood. She stands the martyr of organised and systematic sexual wrong-doing on the part of the man who should be her mate, and whom she alone has evolved to the human plane.

Church and State, religion, law, prejudice, custom, tradition, greed, lust, hatred, injustice, selfishness, ignorance, and arrogance have all conspired against her under the sexual rule of the human male. Vices, however, like curses, come back to roost. In his own enfeebled frame, in his diseased tissues, in his weak will,

¹ *Modern Researches*, “Puerperal Disorders,” p. 257.

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his gibbering idiocy, his raving insanity, and hideous criminality, he reaps the fruits of a dishonoured motherhood, an outraged womanhood, an unnatural abnormal stimulated childbirth, and a starved, poison-fed infancy. For after diseasing the child in the womb and torturing the mother in her life-giving function, what further disability has proceeded from man's disregard of Nature's wise and just restraints?

Severe is man's indictment on the inability of civilised women to nurse their children. But physiology proves how intimate is the inter-connection between gestation and lactation. Simultaneously the womb and the breast prepare for the child's development and welfare. And no artificial substitute can be found for the nourishment Nature has provided for the young of the mammalia. It has all the necessary dietic constituents for the health, strength, and growth of the tender, helpless offspring. But the mother gives much more than nutriment with her milk. "She gives of her nervous power, her vital force, her heart, and mind, and soul."¹ The

¹ *Human Physiology*, Dr T. L. Nichols, p. 329.

supply of milk is the register of her physical and mental capacity.

Children, breast-fed, have, as a rule, no serious complications in teething, no digestive troubles, and no infantile diarrhoea, that dread enemy of infancy, mowing down thousands of artificially-reared children.

The primitive human mother can suckle her child from three to five years; the civilised mother, under natural conditions, can easily prolong the nursing of her infant to two years at the least, with benefit to herself and the child. But such is the perverted, diseased state in which civilised humanity is engulfed, few women are capable of this exercise of maternal duty. The curse has fallen upon them and on their offspring as it fell upon the sensual Semites.

Give them, O Lord; what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.¹

Says Dr Saleeby: "The history of organic evolution teaches that the mammalia have conquered the earth just because they are mammalia, and the race the women of which

¹ Hosea_v ix. 14.

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cease to be mammals will assuredly have to yield and make way for its betters." But the human nursing mother must be under the same law as the ewe and the heifer. She must rule supreme in sex-relations.

How little has the consciousness of man developed when we find that the majority of so-called civilised men, freed from the rigid rule of *Tabu* existing among primitive races for the regulation of sexual relations, are incapable of imagining objectively the grave physical and psychical condition of the nursing mother! They appear to be too dense and callous to appreciate the great peril and self-sacrifice entailed in childbirth on the part of the woman. They are more careful of their breeding animals than of the mother of their children. They impose upon the most highly strung and complex of organisms a strain and excitation that they are fully aware would be fatal to their milch-cows. They extort from woman unwilling acquiescence to a three-fold demand—nourishment for the infant, self-gratification of the male,¹ and the development of an embryo.

¹ One fortnight after confinement some men will insist

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Nature refuses to respond.

First, the woman suffers. The delicate mechanism of the reproductive organs is not given time for rehabilitation; her strength is not recuperated, and is still being exhausted in nourishing her infant. Instead of growing stronger and healthier, she becomes weaker and pathologic, and less able to undergo another pregnancy.

Second, the child suffers. Its natural supply of food waxes less and less, becomes less nutritious in quality, and at last is a veritable poison, its constituents being changed by the noxious ferment of fertilising chemicals absorbed in the mother's system.

Third, the embryo suffers. The maternal organism does its best; but it cannot achieve what is by natural law impossible. It cannot construct and expend at the same time with equal facility. The embryo is starved in proportion as the infant is fed, and *vice versâ*. At the most critical stages of cell-formation in both born and unborn the mechanism slows

on resuming sexual relations with their wives. They are below the brutes. To term them *human* is a misapplication of a definition.

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down, becomes stationary, or stops altogether; the various parts are badly formed, the tissues, the brain-cells, the teeth, the circulation, the heart, lungs, and digestive organs become defective, and the annual baby is handicapped from the moment of its conception. But often it never reaches the gates of life. The miscarriages, the abortions, the still-births, that make up the sum-total of the holocaust of unconsidered offspring due to man's perverted sexuality, are the fell results of a merciless exploitation of the supreme rights of motherhood and the extorted price the woman pays for her sex-prerogative of creatrix.

It is evident, therefore, that the education of the fathers is much more deficient than the education of the mothers. The degeneracy we deplore lies at the door of a selfish, lustful, diseased manhood. Men have sought in woman only a body. They have possessed that body. They have made it the refuse-heap of sexual pathology, when they should have revered it as the Temple of God, the Holy Fane of Life,¹ the Fountain of Health to the human race.

¹ "Every woman will begin with her own redemption. . . .

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Instead of anathematising the mother for her rebellion against undesired motherhood, for her awakened conscience that refuses to sanction repeated painful, unhealthy, unnatural and futile pregnancies, the quidnuncs—clerical, medical, social, philanthropic, and political—had better turn their attention to a profounder study of Nature's wise and beneficent laws. Let them first teach their own sex in particular the science of life, the supreme lesson, that "the development of the individual and the reproduction of the species, stand in an inverse ratio to each other," a truth strongly emphasised by Carpenter, Darwin, Spencer, etc.

Man has not developed, because he has "wasted his substance in riotous living." He has expended his life-force, the complex chemico-physics which, retained in the system, are reabsorbed and transmuted for the forma-

She is, so to speak, battered and rolled out by very rough forces. Whilst her will is annihilated and enslaved, and her heart often remains an undiscovered country, she assists, with pain and disgust, at the downfall of her flesh—that flesh which has become the abode of pain, a body of death, to give birth to life." — *The Women of the Renaissance*, Dr Maulde, p. 19.

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tion of "the finest brain, nerve, and muscular tissue. By its aid a man can become the most powerful athlete, or exercise the highest intellectual power of which he is capable. . . . If wasted, it leaves him . . . intellectually and physically debilitated."¹ Expelled from the organism it is, under *every* condition, only excrementitious in character and properties.

Let those who go periodically into hysterics over birth-rate statistics, practise a little common-sense, or study the instinctive wisdom of the wild animal. They will then be better prepared to instruct the human race in the responsibilities marriage entails; they will possess greater knowledge of the glory of motherhood and the obligatory self-control and continence of fatherhood.

Dr Taylor plaintively asks, in deploring a decreasing birth-rate, "If we see, as we believe, in addition to disease, grave moral and social dangers arising and growing, are we to be dumb and hold our peace? We (physicians) are placed in positions of trust; we are, in some special sense . . . guardians of the sanctity and honour of English family life,

¹ *Human Physiology*, Dr T. L. Nichols, pp. 295, 296.

and we have social as well as professional rights and responsibilities.”¹

But women may well ask in return, Where was this high sense of honour and responsibility during the hideous slaughter of women in forced and undesired childbirth? When in the past did the majority of medical practitioners prescribe moderation, self-control, and the natural instinctive chivalry of the brute when the husband had rendered the wife a life-long invalid, a worn-out machine, broken down under the strain and stress, mental and physical, of repeated sexual exactions?²

¹ “The Declining Birth-rate,” *Nineteenth Century and After*, February 1906.

² We must remember that the diseased state of the spermatozoa and, consequently, of the embryo, proceed primarily from the vices of the male. Alcoholic, nicotic, and syphilitic poisons were first engendered in the male organism and then transmitted to the offspring. The first drunken woman was the daughter of the male drunkard. The ferments of male animals are not poisons to the female—they are potent, not noxious. The human race is suffering from over-fertilisation and enforced reproduction. Man, the destroyer, has been at work, not woman, the constructor. When man is continent, the mysterious origin of cancer will be solved, and cancer, with other

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Did an appreciable number of these honourable gentlemen then preach moral responsibility and the sanctity of motherhood? Never! For every child born of a mother's agony, every miscarriage due to overstrain of the maternal functions, every disease to which the reproductive organs are liable through over-excitation and abuse, brought so many fees to their grasping hands, and were, in fact, the main sources of their incomes. Many now see, with dismay, this mine of gold, dug from the depths of diseased humanity, of exploited and outraged womanhood, becoming exhausted,

kindred horrors, will disappear. Sexual germs are not confined to the reproductive organs; they permeate the whole body. Assimilation and absorption by the female organism cannot divest them of their potential properties of stimulation and disintegration, of decay and corruption. Hence the terrible increase of cancer among the Western races, who, for so long, have ignored the Law.—See *Cancer: A Working Theory for its Prevention and Cure*, by John Shaw, M.D.

“Situations, where foetal rests are abundant, are the favourite seats of cancer” (p. 15).

“Foetal rests” are “cells which have failed to develop, like their fellows, into structures organically and functionally complete.” They have, in a word, been retarded in organic growth by disturbed vibrations.

and they fill the air with self-interested, sinister lamentations over a decreasing birth-rate and a wisely controlled maternity. Their science is as false as their morality, and as ineffective. For woman, herself, is happily learning the natural law of reproduction with the natural restrictions placed on sexual relations, and she is gradually teaching man self-respect, self-reverence, self-control, and the exercise of a love that worketh no evil. She sees plainly through the awful hypocrisy that can look back on the over-production of the race, as under the supreme sanction of the Divine, and regards with loathing the sanctimonious fulminations of bishops, senators, presidents and politicians, whose abysmal ignorance of physiology is only equalled by their utter disregard of elementary ethics. Little do they know of the Love that worketh no ill, of the divine Fatherhood that is perfect in purity.

For the morality of family life has been insidiously undermined by a system of legalised prostitution, so fearful, so deadly, so debasing in its character and consequences that only because, as Lester Ward asserts, "woman is

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the race," could the mother of mankind have survived the terrible ordeal.

Mr John Burns is reported to have said that "it is to the mothers of the race that we must look for the improvement of the race." And this statement is in a measure true, if our would-be reformers will also turn their attention with the same assiduity to the fathers and husbands of the mothers. We need good fathers as well as good mothers. According to Sir James Crichton Browne, "We are gratuitously tossing into the graveyard upwards of 50,000 infants every year. Then the mothers as well as the infants are needlessly sacrificed. Upwards of 1600 of them die every year." Where does he lay the blame? Who places the mother on the altar of sacrifice? Who is the self-elected priest who girds the victim with cords and bonds, who is deaf to her cries and blind to her tears? Is it not her "own familiar friend," her mate?

Dr C. W. Saleeby has arrived at the self-evident conclusion that "no nation or race ever yet survived the decadence of motherhood within it." He advocates a practical scheme of feeding the nursing mother, "because it is

obeying Nature, beginning at the beginning. . . . It involves teaching the mother that her motherhood, in all its functions, is indispensable for the child." He appears to forget that the beginning in sexual reproduction is the absorption by the ovum of an imported sperm, preferably of a healthy composition.

But this involves also the education of the fathers in the dignity, prerogatives, rights, and sanctity of fatherhood and womanhood. They too must go back to the beginning. Are they also willing to be taught? Will they become obedient to Nature's wise law and discipline? Will they reverence the Temple of Creative Life, the abode of the child-in-the-making, the matrix of humanity?

"We must subjugate the passions," writes the author of *Are We a Declining Race?* "before we can retrieve our position to-day. Temperance and chastity are the two virtues to be adopted, if we want to hold our own, and the sooner we recognise this fact the better it will be for the race."¹

"There is no other way to strike at the root of many evils," writes Bayer, "not only in the

¹ P. 107.

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physical nature of man, but in his sociological and ethical nature, except through an education of the coming parenthood upon the mental and physical relation of the sexes, and until that is done there can be no improvement or permanent cure for the varied evils which afflict mankind. The laws which govern health, sanitation, and hygiene are considered of great importance, but the most important of all laws, indicating how to bring good brains and bodies into existence, are totally disregarded. The laws of Nature governing reproduction are not taught. We spend millions to produce good hogs and cattle, but not one dollar to produce good children. . . . The first and strongest plea is for the observance of Nature's laws, for purity of motive, as this is the foundation of good morals. But false modesty and prudery are criminal."¹

Let us mark well the grand words of Dr Nichols:—

“For evils of ignorance we want knowledge, for those of false notions we want truth.

“When the great law of Nature—which is the law of God—respecting the reproductive

¹ *Modern Researches*, pp. 216, 278.

function, is clearly known, and the consequences of its disorders and abuses, and the health and happiness that may come from purity and holiness of health and life, men and women will aid each other in avoiding the evil and enjoying the good. Men will no longer injure themselves and destroy women ; women will no longer give the sanction of their tolerance, and even approval, to men of profligate and dishonest lives, wasting their own energies, and making women the wretched slaves of their lusts.”¹

With a wider, deeper knowledge of physiology, biology, and embryology, men will no longer boast of being members of large families, and the survivors of twelve or fifteen death struggles of their mothers.

Their individual psychology will have so far developed that they will be able to realise the position, above all, of the working mothers, “of those sad women crushed by the triple burden of poverty, of ceaseless procreation, and too often of bad treatment—breeding women, whom a brutal male, in a savage, drunken fit, impregnates without a thought, who up to the

¹ *Human Physiology*, p. 306.

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last moment have to work hard, despite the pains of pregnancy, for all the family, waiting on the man and the children, and who, after undergoing on the pallet-bed of their garret, without air in summer and without fire in winter, the trials of childbirth, resume, quite broken down, at the end of three or four days, their task of beasts of burden, awaiting with anguish their next pregnancy, which comes so soon.”¹

Deep down in the heart of humanity has ever been a rebellion against the abnormal and fostered sensuality of the human male. It is at length, and not too soon, finding expression in speech and action. All that is best and noble in manhood is in harmony with the awakened conscience of the race.

It is realised that only—

Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands,
Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands,
Where the city of the best bodied mothers stands,
There the great city stands.

Walt Whitman.

Thousands of men and women, with enlightened eyes and understanding hearts, are

¹ Madame Roussel in *L'Action*, 18th January 1907.

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pledged to the betterment of mankind, and are treading that upward path which will lead humanity to heights of which the majority now have little conception, but have been ever the glorious vision of the poet and the seer.

I have climbed to the snows of Age, and I gaze at a
field in the Past,
Where I sank with the body at times in the sloughs of
a low desire ;
But I hear no yelps of the beast, and the man is quiet
at last,
As he stands on the heights of his life with a glimpse
of a height that is higher.

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